

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

ACDA-05 TRSE-00 SAJ-01 /064 W

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R 092115Z JUN 75

FM AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6667

INFO USMISSION NATO

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE OTTAWA 2154

EO 11652 NA

TAGS MPOL CA

SUBJ CANADIAN ADMIRAL LASHES CANADIAN

GOVERNMENT ON MILITARY PREPAREDNESS

1. TORONTO GLOBE AND MAIL ON JUNE 9 PUBLISHED ARTICLE  
DATELINED HALIFAX AND ENTITLED "CANADA FAILING MILITARY  
ALLIES, ADMIRAL WARNS."

2. ACCORDING TO ARTICLE, VICE ADMIRAL DOUGLAS BOYLE,  
HEAD OF MARITIME COMMAND, GAVE CONSERVATIVE MPS AT CONSERVATIVE  
PARTY CAUCUS IN HALIFAX "A HARD SELL, OFTEN POLITICAL, SALES  
PITCH...URGING THEM TO FIGHT FOR MORE RESOURCES FOR THE ARMED  
FORCES." ADMIRAL BOYLE ALLEGEDLY SAID CANADA IS FALLING DOWN  
ON ITS MILITARY COMMITMENTS TO ITS ALLIES AND COMPLAINED THAT  
HE HAS HAD TO CUT DRASTICALLY THE TIME HIS SHIPS ARE AT SEA AND  
HIS AIRCRAFT IN THE AIR BECAUSE OF LACK OF MONEY FOR FUEL.

3. "MY JOB IS TO SERVE MY MASTERS, BUT I ALSO  
BELIEVE IT'S SOMEONE'S JOB TO INFORM THE CANADIAN  
PUBLIC OF WHAT THE THREAT IS... IF WE CAN'T PUT UP  
THEN WE SHOULD SHUT UP AND SURRENDER OUR SOVEREIGNTY  
TO THE AMERICANS," HE APPARENTLY SAID. ACCORDING TO  
THE PRESS REPORT HE REPEATEDLY CITED THE NEED FOR NEW  
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AIRCRAFT, IMPROVED ELECTRONIC SURVEILLANCE SYSTEMS,

AND AMALGAMATION OF ALL CANADIAN GOVERNMENT "NAVIES"  
INTO ONE MARITIME FORCE. HE MENTIONED VESSELS USED  
BY THE COAST GUARD, THE RCMP, THE DEPARTMENT OF  
TRANSPORT, AND THE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT. HE ALSO  
SUGGESTED THAT THE MILITARY BE GIVEN A BIGGER BUDGET, AND  
THAT IT BE ALLOWED TO HIRE MORE PERSONNEL TO HELP  
UNEMPLOYMENT PROBLEMS, AND CONCLUDED BY SAYING "EVERY  
TIME I GO DOWN TO THE STATES I HANG MY HEAD IN SHAME.  
WE SPEND JUST OVER TWO PERCENT OF OUR GNP ON DEFENSE,  
THEY SPEND 7.8 PERCENT."

4. COMMENT: THE REMARKABLE CRITICISM OF THE CANADIAN  
GOVERNMENT BY ONE OF ITS MILITARY CHIEFS, PARTICULARLY  
WHEN ADDRESSING CONSERVATIVE OPPOSITION MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT,  
PROBABLY REFLECTS THE GREAT FRUSTRATION AND UNHAPPINESS  
PRESENTLY FOUND IN THE CANADIAN ARMED FORCES. (CONSERVATIVE  
MP GEORGE HEES WAS QUOTED IN THE SAME ARTICLE AS  
SAYING THAT PM PIERRE TRUDEAU "HAS NO USE FOR THE  
MILITARY..."). ADMIRAL BOYLE WILL UNDOUBTEDLY HEAR  
FROM HIS SUPERIORS BUT IT IS UNLIKELY THAT MUCH MORE  
WILL HAPPEN; HIS CRITICISMS ARE OBVIOUSLY ON  
TARGET AND GOC WOULD HAVE DIFFICULTY TAKING TOO-STRONG  
ACTION AGAINST HIM FOR "TELLING IT LIKE IT IS."  
PORTER

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** PERSONAL OPINION, MILITARY EXPENDITURES, MILITARY POLICIES  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 09 JUN 1975  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** GolinoFR  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1975OTTAWA02154  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D750201-0342  
**From:** OTTAWA  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
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**Legacy Key:** link1975/newtext/t19750668/aaaackfh.tel  
**Line Count:** 85  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Office:** ACTION EUR  
**Original Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** GolinoFR  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 29 APR 2003  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <29 APR 2003 by ElyME>; APPROVED <30 APR 2003 by GolinoFR>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
06 JUL 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** CANADIAN ADMIRAL LASHES CANADIAN GOVERNMENT ON MILITARY PREPAREDNESS  
**TAGS:** MPOL, CA, (BOYLE, DOUGLAS)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006